



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,792	11/18/2003	Yulun Wang	157438-0015	6134
1622	7590	07/24/2006	EXAMINER	
IRELL & MANELLA LLP 840 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE SUITE 400 NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660			SAN MARTIN, EDGARDO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2837	

DATE MAILED: 07/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/716,792

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Edgardo San Martin

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-12, 14-16, 21-24, 26-32 and 34-36 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.

- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-12, 14-16, 21-24, 26-32 and 34-36 is/are rejected.

- 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.

- 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 12, 14 – 16, 21 – 24, 26 – 32 and 34 – 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paulos et al. (NPL Document titled Designing Personal Tele-embodiment) in view of Pin et al. (US 5,374,879), and further in view of Skaar et al. (US 6,304,050).

With respect to claims 1, 9, 21 and 29, Paulos et al. teach a robot, comprising a mobile platform; a camera coupled to the mobile platform, an arm coupled to the mobile platform; and a first effector coupled to the arm (Figs.1 and 2; Sections 1 – 4), wherein the arm includes a first linkage, and a second linkage coupled to the first linkage, the arm having an actuator that moves the second linkage relative to the first linkage in a first degree a freedom in a first mode, and in a second degree of freedom in a second mode (Section 4.5); but fail to disclose wherein the platform is holonomic and wherein the effector is a grasper.

Nevertheless, Pin et al. teach a holonomic platform used with a robot (Fig.3; Col.1, Lines 14 – 22 and Col.2, Lines 9 – 34).

On the other hand, Skaar et al. teach the use of grasper in a robotic system employing cameras for monitoring the robot actions (Fig.1; Col.59 – Col.5, Line 63).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the Pin et al. holonomic platform and the Skaar et al. grasper with the Paulos design because the holonomic platform would provide an omnidirectional platform having decoupled rotational and translational degrees of freedom, and the monitored grasper could perform specific grasping actions that could be visually controlled by a remote user, improving the mobility and performance of the robot.

With respect to claims 2 – 4, 6 – 8, 10 – 12 and 14 – 16, the Examiner considers that Paulos et al. teach the limitations described in the claims (Figs.1 and 2; Section 4).

With respect to claims 21 and 29, Paulos et al. teach a robot system comprising a broadband network; a remote station coupled to the broadband network, the remote station having a handle that can be manipulated to generate movement signals that are transmitted through the broadband network; a robot that is coupled to the broadband network and receives the movement signals from the handle of the remote station (Sections 1 – 3).

With respect to claims 22 – 24, 26 – 28, 30 – 32 and 34 – 36, the Examiner considers that Paulos et al. teach the limitations described in the claims (Figs.1 and 2; Section 4).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on May 12, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Examiner still considers that the obvious combination of the Paulos et al. document and the patents to Pin et al. and Skaar et al. teach the

limitations described in the claims as discussed above. The Examiner considers that any person with ordinary skill in the art would conclude from the Paulos et al. disclosure that the use of robotic arms with multiple degrees of freedom are not excluded from the Paulos et al. invention's scope; just because one embodiment was selected to simplify the representation of the invention, it does not mean that other embodiments, that could be more complex, inherently presented by the disclosure would not fall within the scope of the invention. Furthermore, the patent to Skaar et al. clearly shows the use of a robotic arm with multiple degrees of freedom; in addition, it has been held that one cannot show non-obviousness by attacking references individually where, as here, the rejections are based on combinations of references. In re Keller, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981).

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

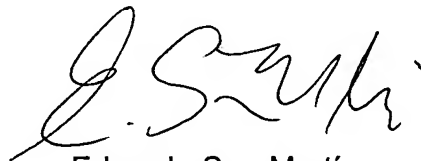
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edgardo San Martín whose telephone number is (571) 272-2074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lincoln Donovan can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext.37. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edgardo San Martín
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2837
Class 318
July 17, 2006